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LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 1 May 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union on the Sudan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations

98-12912 (E) 110598 110598

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 1 May 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union on the Sudan

The European Union is increasingly concerned about the worsening humanitarian crisis in Bahr al-Ghazal in southern Sudan and calls on the Government of the Sudan to give every assistance to the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to facilitate the delivery of food and other essential supplies.

The European Union considers that a sustainable political settlement is the only way forward to allow the Sudanese to rebuild their lives. The European Union fully supports the efforts of the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to broker a peace in the Sudan. The European Union urges all sides in the dispute to adopt a positive attitude and come to an agreement at the next session of the peace talks in Nairobi from 2 to 5 May. In order to enhance the chances of success of the talks and to end the suffering of the Sudanese people, the European Union calls on all parties to effect an immediate ceasefire.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the countries of the European Free Trade Association, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.